

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 75

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We want again to draw the attention of our readers to the fact that we shall be away from home from the morning of Saturday, 19th, until further notice, and that any letters sent here will simply lie awaiting our return. Anything received here up to evening post, Friday, 18th, we can attend to in the ordinary way. As we mentioned before, our kind friend and collaborator, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, will attend to all Gossip and Loughair Lore matters. We thought this was enough to ask her to do, but, with characteristic kindness of heart, she has now spontaneously offered to attend to advertisements too, so that any advertisements, or, Births, Visits, etc., can be sent to her, and she will transmit them to the printers.

As regards Siamese matters, if fanciers of this variety will be so good as to send their items of news to the Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Club, Mrs. Wade, 89, Alexandra Road, London, N.W. 8, she has kindly consented to embody these in a Siamese column.

We beg you, therefore, to post all your matter to one or other of these at latest by the afternoon post on Thursdays, May 24th and 31st, in order that they may send them to the printers by Saturday morning, when "Cat Gossip" is set up. In the case of very urgent matter **worthy of transmission by wire**, such as the death or sale of a champion or similar important news, it may be sent up to Saturday night. We hope our readers will help "Cat Gossip" by keeping the interest going, and will render easy the task of our kind helpers by posting news or other matter early, clearly written, on one side of paper only.

As regards subscriptions, there will be quite a number fall due within the next three weeks, but, **unless posted this Thursday, 17th**, please do not send until we notify our return. We are enclosing "reminder" slips with this issue to those whose subscriptions expire within the next three weeks, as we shall not be there to do so when they actually become due. The paper will be published and sent out on Wednesday, as usual, during our absence.

## LONG-HAIR LORE.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER. (Phone: Hendon 1019).

Croydon, Surrey, is well known as the home of many animal lovers, and there the cat votaries are numerous. Miss Adams, one of the foremost in these ranks, sits on the Gov. Council for the C.C.C., and frequently gives her kind services as Chinchilla judge at our Championship Shows. Miss Adams' family of pets consists of three blue Persian ladies and a black boy, whom she describes as a "real ruffian," for his special pastime is stalking the pigeons and chickens. Two of the blues do not seem far behind in mischief, for on celebrating their birthday week they chose a luscious guinea fowl for their dinner. It did not transpire who did the deed! but no doubt it was an offering of gallantry on the part of the noble swash-buckler!

A promise comes to hand from Miss R. Bowden-Smith that we are soon to hear news from her cattery, where many litters of kittens will be arriving. Barley Hill is one of those lucky places where kittens grow sturdy and strong, and Miss Bowden-Smith often sends winning specimens of her handsome smoke variety to the shows all over the country. I distinctly remember two of the sweetest smoke kits shown by her at one of the Southern Counties' Shows; the little darlings were so friendly and full of fun that even the show pen could not damp their frolics. Both, I believe, captured the heart of a purchaser before the day was over.

Everyone will be grieved to learn that Mrs. McClure, that bright, energetic young Fancier, is retiring from the Fancy under her doctor's orders. It came quite as a shock to me when I received a letter to this effect a few days ago. Both she and her husband had so interested themselves and had owned so many winning black Persians that this part of the Fancy will suffer a serious blow by the disbanding of the Hillingdon Cattery. Mrs. McClure declares that one pet must remain with her, so Hillingdon Black Jester, that fine kitten who won premier honours last season, is to stay in his old home to comfort his mistress. All the other handsome blacks are to find new surroundings, and we will hope that they will go where kind hands will pet them, for they have been great pals. No doubt Mrs. McClure will often greet us as the shows come along, and I am sure those of us to whom she is personally

known will join in wishing her a speedy return to health and strength, and a re-entry ere long into cat-dom.

Miss Annesley-Phayre is shortly expecting a family of Chinchilla kittens, sired by Woolley Thistle, a son of Ch. Langherne Felix. This litter is Woolley's first siring, so naturally Miss Phayre is excitedly looking forward to the event.

Many and diversified are the criticisms on this year's Academy! Portraiture takes a very distinguished place. A lady in a black gown has not forgotten her blue Persian, who fills a prominent position at her feet. On another canvas, close by, lies a brown tabby snugly curled up in his basket, and Shiela, who occupies a canvas all to herself, looks down amazed on the passing throng! Pleased as I am to see our dear cats represented, I could wish that some of the artists visited our shows to learn the points. Miss M. A. Williams, owner of Omar Khayyam, studied them from every point of view, and her blue Persians added to the charm of her pictures.

The first purchaser from the Hillingdon Cattery is Mrs. Yeates, who has secured Juliana of Wellingboro', the tortie queen, who is in kitten to Mdme. Dolli's Colneside Cream Bunne. This mating ought to produce something good, as I hear the queen has a particularly sweet head.

An actor who loves a cat: Mr. Dennis Eadie is a devotee of the feline, and they all love him. He is never without a cat as a pet.

Dewdrop of the Court vies with the "old lady who lived in a shoe," only she never finds that she has a kitten "too many." Mrs. Oglethorpe writes:—Lady Fayre and Dewdrop are due to kitten together, so if I have any difficulty with Lady Fayre, this being her first family, I shall have Dewdrop's help. She it was who took charge of Dainty Lady's litter when the latter became tired, and it was nothing to see her nursing nine kittens at a time, three of her own, five of Dainty Lady's, and Perdita's little son. It is to Dewdrop, I feel sure, that Orlando and Orsino owe their fine physique; she took charge of them when they were becoming too much for their dear little mother, and instead of going back they went ahead like wildfire. At the present moment she is most sad because she has no little ones to bring up, and is even a little jealous and annoyed at Dainty Ladye for having a family when she has none."

### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

MISS BUSTEED, writing to renew the stud advertisement of her three Siamese, Robinsboi, Litason, and Jimbois, says she is feeling nervous about her Kitten Show, as she has never run a mixed show before. Well, after seeing her Siamese Shows, we feel sure if it is not a success it will not be due to any fault of the management. It is, however, a very big thing for two ladies to run a show of this kind, and we do hope Miss Busteed and Mrs. Sharnan will receive all

possible support. The Philbeach Hall is an ideal home for a small show. If this show turns out a success it is the hope of the promoters to make it an annual event, so this is entirely in the hands of the Fancy.

WITH regard to the treatment of disease by serums, now so much recommended in some quarters, we "ha'e oor doots." A Harley Street physician, Dr. Fergie Woods, speaking (of humans, it is true, but his remarks may be equally applicable to cats and dogs) at the Aeolian Hall last summer: "Inoculations have the capability of mitigating the symptoms and destroying the superficial disease . . . and later they get something worse. Take catarrh, for instance, in connection with serum treatment or vaccine treatment. Vaccine treatment of catarrh may perhaps destroy the catarrh, not always, but if it does I have found on observation that the patients get often something deep seated, and I am very sorry that they lost their catarrh. Personally, I have found that vaccine treatment is misleading and dangerous in the same way as serum treatment is." This pronouncement, by one who is M.D., L.R.C.P., and M.R.C.S. (and who is by no means alone in his views), are surely worthy of consideration. Most serums and vaccines are obtained at the cost of torture, and considering how the vaunted insulin cure—which meant the agonies of many dogs—is now being condemned by many medical men of eminence, we are no believers in their use.

THE Cats' Protection League will hold its first Annual Meeting on Thursday, 17th, at 3 p.m., at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. All cat-lovers are cordially invited. The chair will be taken by that well-known animal lover, Mr. W. Brown, J.P., M.R.C.V.S., and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Avery, will give a lantern talk. We do hope all who can will attend. This League has been formed with a view of generally safeguarding the interests of cats and cat owners in every way, of bettering the position of the cat in the public mind, of opposing obnoxious legislation, and its aims, therefore, should commend themselves and deserve the support of the cat fancier in particular. At any rate, a visit to this meeting is bound to be of interest, and we do hope it will be well attended.

THE Blue Persian Cat Society's meeting will be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on May 24th, when according to G.C. requirements, the Society's Challenge Cups, etc., will be on view.

IN the columns of our contemporary, Mr. House, the iconoclast, in the course of his certainly interesting articles criticising club standards, inquires:—Where is the judge who would put a green-eyed tortie to the front, however good it may be in other properties? Well, we certainly can conceive ourselves doing so, provided competition allowed it. We have never been a believer in laying such very great stress on a point which, after all, cannot be an essential one. Such a habit, if carried to excess, leads one wrong in many instances. An instance of this was seen when a cer-





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tain world-famous all-round judge put back the equally world-famous tabby Manx, Ch. Katzenjammer, because he had a light chin, placing him behind a third-rate Manx. Now the essence of a Manx is "Manxness," and a light chin should only be considered if there were two cats equally good in all other respects. The essence of a tortoiseshell is the excellence of colour and markings, and we take Mr. House's words to mean that if he had a perfectly marked and coloured Tortoiseshell with green eyes, he would on that account put it behind an orange-eyed competitor smudgy, too dark, or dead in colour, or with tabby patches? Whether in practice Mr. House would do so, we do not know, but that he would we are perfectly justified in assuming from his written word, which, after all, is all we have to go by here. And as regards the 60 points, which, he complains, the club standard allows for tortoiseshell, we consider the club standard perfectly justified, for after all the essence of a tortoiseshell is "tortieness," and the most brilliant orange eye and the most perfect shape and make will not make a good tortie out of a bad coloured cat. Of course, Mr. House may say that when writing what he did he was envisaging a class containing first-class torties with orange eyes besides his hypothetical green-eyed otherwise good one, in which case we are quite with him; but we have to deal with things as they are, and in practice, if we get a class with his green-eyed beauty in it, it is quite on the cards that one or two of the other possible three or four competitors may be badly coloured

or tabby patched, and in that case, if we are judging, they will go behind the green-eyed perfect (or nearly so) tortoiseshell! With regard to tabbies, we have no quarrel with what Mr. House inserts in his suggested standard of markings, but we do think there is an important omission. What about the dorsal stripes? those stripes running down the centre of the back from shoulder to tail? As far as Mr. House's suggestions go, we see nothing whatever to prevent a cat having a broken dorsal stripe. In tabbies we find two distinct types of dorsal mark. We find the dorsal dark stripe running down the centre of the spine, on each side of this a stripe of paler fur, and then the lateral dark stripes; and we also find cats in which the centre of the back or spine is occupied by a light stripe, and a dark stripe runs on each side of this from shoulder to root of tail. For the benefit of novices, we repeat here the diagram of typical blotched tabby pattern (after a world-famous naturalist), which we published some three years ago in "Animals," the correct designation of the markings being:—1, cervical or neck space; 2, scapular or shoulder stripe; 3, suprascapular stripe; 4, postscapular stripe; 5, dorsal or spinal stripe; 6, middle side or lateral stripe; 7, upper lateral; 8, lateral dorsal stripe; 9, postscapular space; 10, lower side stripe.

THE unfortunate thing is that in practice we find too often that those cats with the most clearly defined body striping are spoilt by whitish or light extremities, chest, and so on; and the darker ones, on

the other hand, spoilt by blurred markings—the dorsal stripe, for instance, blending in part or all of its length with the upper lateral. This is why good brown tabbies are so hard to breed. Personally, if we had a cat with perfectly clear marks all over, but showing, instead of the dark dorsal stripe, a brown mark down the centre of the back, closely bounded by the two laterals, we should put it above a cat with the orthodox black dorsal stripe, if this were blurry and indistinct—for in the present state of things such blurry cats are winning to-day. These matters are of interest and worthy of discussion, were it not for the apathy Mr. Yeates feelingly refers to; in fact, one is tempted to think if the Cat Fancy required a registered telegraphic address, APATHY might not be quite unsuitable!

A TWO-HEADED kitten—one head being white and one black—has been born at Swansea, according to the "Weekly Dispatch."

We still constantly receive complaints of late delivery, or non-delivery, of "Cat Gossip." What can one do but complain to the Post Office? and what good is that? Also, "reminder" or receipt slips enclosed frequently disappear in course of post, probably carelessly dropped when papers are examined, as they are from time to time.

We are grieved to learn that Mrs. Oglethorpe has lost Dewdrop of the Court from pneumonia and rupture of the diaphragm. There is strong reason to believe this is from the action of a neighbouring female, who said she had "put down something your cats won't like." **If Fanciers supported the Cats' Protection League and made it a power, acts like this would not be committed with impunity.** The German Cats' Protection Society has over 20,000 members!! The British?!

## SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG THAI.

Miss Busted informs us that she sent two male Siamese to the U.S.A. the other day, by the "Majestic."

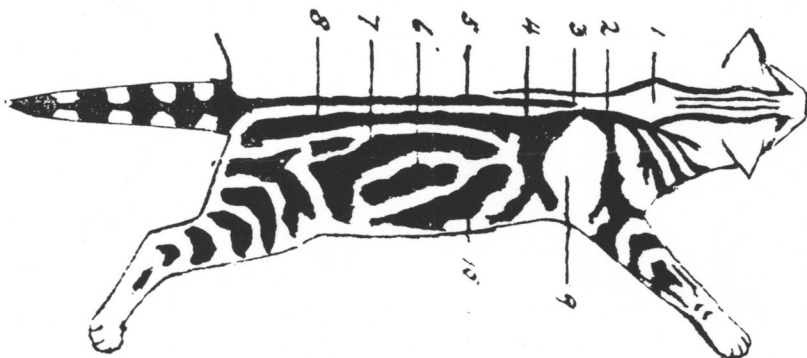
From Chelsea comes the following news of Mrs. Burke's cats:—"My young male, Mickee-Ming, has recently gone to Ireland, having been purchased by

Lady Brooke, and will probably be kept as a stud cat. He is a son of Ch. Simzo, and did very well at the Southern Counties' last January, so should be an acquisition to the Fancy in Ireland. The only other I know of in Ireland belongs to Lady Londonderry. It is a long trip for queens to come over here to be mated. He will find a very different life over there—a full country life—whereas here he and his brothers hardly ever put their noses outside; nor does this indoor life seem to affect their health and spirits, for they have been most flourishing, and always ready to answer the call 'Cats, cats,' which is the special dinner gong cry I always use at feeding time, the tiny kittens learning to know what it means at a very early age. I never use it at any other time, except if Kinka-Mee strays into an adjacent garden, when the magic words quickly bring her hurrying back, and then she is always rewarded with a tit-bit, lest she should come to look upon it as a 'wolf, wolf' call, and disregard it; so it is a very strict rule that 'Cats, cats,' must always mean food."

## MRS CRAN ON BLUE-EYED BLACK CATS.

I was interested to see the reference in the issue of "Cat Gossip," May 9th, to a blue-eyed black as of "very great scientific interest and very rare." They have been common knowledge in my home for the last seven years. In 1921 a Siamese queen got away and mated herself to some stray cat, and gave us two of these blue-eyed blacks.

She was a blue-pointed queen, with a tail that was all kink and no tail—like a powder puff it was, when she got angry and fluffed it out. A bunch of blue fur on her cream quarters! Very odd and attractive. Her kits were pure Siamese type, build, body-shape, coat-texture, habits, and voice; but dead black in colour, with deep violet-blue eyes. They were so lovely that I spoke of them to several breeders, and suggested breeding them. But I was myself at that time too troubled and hard up to undertake any new thing at all; and the kittens ultimately went to good homes after being neutered, when I left that part of the country. We called them at home the "witch cats." The out-cross made for magnificent constitu-



TYPICAL PATTERN OF BLOTCHED TABBY.

tion, I noticed. The blue eyes (one squinted a little!) were marvellous in the pointed black faces; the Siamese gait, the sleek glossy coats like a man's top-hat, the slenderness and great strength were all very noticeable. They both had long tails. I was very sorry to lose sight of them; and my daughter and I have never forgotten them. I have seen another bred from a Siamese queen in Kent, in my own village, from my own strain; again an unknown mate. This was a lovely male, and I tried hard to secure it. But it belonged to a farmer, and was so fine a ratter that he would not sell, and it was lost, probably in a trap, or shot—which happens here only too often. The mother was a very dark seal-pointed queen, with deep blue eyes, and her mother was also tail-less. A curious coincidence! I have had a black three-quarter Siamese since then, a present from kind Mrs. Hindley—a wonderful fellow, whom I loved very much. His sire was, I think, red or orange; for his coat showed a distinct red tone in a very strong light, and his eyes were orange.

I think we could breed this most attractive blue-eyed black S.H. variety from Siamese queens which show a tendency to "break" from show points—such as the blue-pointed ones and the unduly kinked—(Miss Bateman's queen, Lady June Noisette, breeds breaks into blue). These, mated to short-haired blacks, might give us what we want; I know nothing of the results of Siamese sires and black queens.

The curly tail is not really very uncommon, as you justly remark! My lovely Sibö carries his in a downward curve, which is very quaint. His kink, a very small affair when he was younger, is now a well-developed curve, over and under, at the tip of his tail, and it gives the effect of a lead weight, making him carry his tail always like a crescent moon with the tip downwards! Sibö is at the moment playing with three young rats he has found in the field and brought into the study to make me happy at my desk!!! Dear tactless Sibö.

MARION CRAN.

**BIRTHS.**

May 5th.—Mrs. Buckle's Siamese, **Mao Chun Su**, two kittens by Mrs. Hindley's **Simzo**.

April.—Mrs. Weightman's (Lerryn, Lostwithiel) **Alva**, four males, by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Sir Despard**.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor, H. C. BROOKE.

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